

education, health, stability, and peace. All must be looked at with the freshness of new ideas and contemporary resources. But any attempt to be free of the past is an unworthy illusion, and any attempt to be free of the future is a dangerous mistake. You tell us, "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof," both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BLACKBURN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3010. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 3010) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. SPECTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. REID, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

RESPONDING TO AVIAN FLU

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this morning the President at the National Institute of Health outlined his plan for dealing with pandemic flu should this illness jump from birds to people. The President outlined a plan that essentially covered three areas: to be able to detect the outbreak of avian flu anywhere in the world; stockpiling vaccines and medicines; and the response from both the local, State, and Federal level.

To be able to detect the outbreak of avian flu anywhere in the world is going to require a partnership of several countries that will share information and samples, but it is important to remember a threat anywhere is a threat everywhere.

Stockpiling vaccines and increasing the rapidity with which this country can make vaccines ensure that there is reliability and regulatory protection for those countries that are making vaccines.

And, finally, response. Response needs to be at the local, Federal, and State levels. Local officials need to be ready to go, but there also needs to be strategic national stockpiling of supplies and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, the fact remains that the best way to deal with panic is through preparedness. The best way to deal with inflammatory rhetoric is with information. I think the President took some bold steps this morning to outline these plans, and I look forward to the release of the preparedness plan tomorrow.

THE REVEREND DR. SHELVIN JEROME HALL

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Reverend Dr. Shelvin Jerome Hall on his 50 years of service to the Friendship Baptist Church and its surrounding communities in the Chicagoland area. Reverend Hall and his family have been tremendous assets to our community. His wife, a retired Chicago public school teacher; one daughter, Priscilla, a supreme court justice in the State of New York; another daughter, Shelvin Louise, an appellate court judge in Cook County; and his son, an esteemed psychologist. They have been assets to our community, and I congratulate Reverend Hall and his family on 50 years of service.

JUDGE ALITO

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, our Founding Fathers devised a system of government which has served us well for more than 200 years. Ultimately, though, no constitutional system can survive un-

less it is respected by those who have sworn to protect it. We will find out in the coming weeks whether the liberals in the Senate value demagoguery more than the Constitution.

Judge Samuel Alito has every qualification and character trait you could want in a Supreme Court Justice. He has reverence for the Constitution, he has the humility to remember that his job is to judge, not to legislate. He has a brilliant mind, a compassionate character. He comes from humble origins, which will keep him rooted in the real values of this country. This is precisely the kind of person we need on our Court.

Unfortunately, there are a handful of Senators who are so obsessed with a few controversial issues that they seem bent on tearing down good people no matter what the cost to our democracy. I urge the other body to proceed fairly toward an up-or-down vote on Judge Alito's nomination.

SERGEANT MICHAEL TREMAIN ROBERTSON

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my fallen heroes, Sergeant Michael Tremain Robinson, who died October 25, 2005, of injuries suffered in Samarra, Iraq while serving in the war. He was only 28 years old.

He died at Brooke Army Medical Center, but he suffered his injuries on October 17 when a bomb exploded near a Bradley Fighting Vehicle. We also know that he was known as a humble and quiet spirit, a wonderful medic. He was called Doc Bob.

His Aunt Alma Newsom; his wife, Tanya; his baby son, Xavier; his mother, Barbara Booker; his father, Michael Robinson; grandfather, Simmie Newsom; and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Robinson, all mourn the loss of this quiet giant, this young man who believed in his country and went back for his second tour of duty.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate to honor these fallen heroes, 2,000-plus and growing. In his name, as he is now buried and gone home to his maker, may he rest in peace. But I ask this Congress, this House and Senate in his name to begin to open up and to hold the hearings to determine why we went to Iraq, to treat him as the hero that he was and also so that his family may know the truth.

He took his duty seriously; he was an outstanding and passionate medic and a great American. I pay tribute and finality to Sergeant Michael Tremain Robinson, and my pledge to you is to find the truth.

WATAUGA COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)